

Books having to do with young men coming of age and making their way in the world.

Bragg, Melvyn

Crossing the Lines

A series of people find their fates intertwined, from a teenager's seduction by the outside world, to his romance with a girl whose life is precariously balanced, to the struggles of his middle-aged parents.

Cobb, Thomas

Shavetail

Fleeing a shameful past, seventeen year old Ned joins the U.S. Army in 1871.

Coelho, Paulo

The Alchemist (TB)

An Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago travels from Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of treasure.

Correa, Raul

I Don't Know But I've Been Told

A former sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division reveals the truth about life in the U.S. military.

Dickens, Charles

Great Expectations

An orphaned young man in Victorian England is given a great deal of money by an unknown benefactor to enable him to live as a gentleman, pursuing a good education and fulfilling great expectations.

Dreiser, Theodor

An American Tragedy

The rise and fall of Clyde Griffiths, who sacrifices everything is his desperate quest for success.

Ellis, Bret

Less Than Zero

Clay, a freshman at an Eastern college, returns home to Los Angeles for Christmas break, but feels totally disconnected and aimless there, and discovers a seamy world of drugs and prostitution.

Fergus, Jim

The Wild Girl : the notebooks of Ned

Giles, 1932 : a novel

Heading west to join the search for the kidnapped son of a wealthy Mexican landowner, Ned meets a troubled Apache girl, imprisoned in a Mexican jail, whose fate forces him to make a choice that will change his life.

Grey, Zane

Open Range : a western story

The story of a youth growing quickly to manhood, and achieving his ambition of becoming a top ranch hand.

Groom, Winston

Forrest Gump

In the 1960s, Forrest Gump, a pleasant and obedient son with low intelligence, joins the army, returns from Vietnam famous for his heroics and makes millions on a Louisiana shrimp boat while steadfastly loving a girl from his childhood.

Irving, John

A Prayer for Owen Meany : a novel

Owen Meany hits a foul ball while playing baseball in the summer of 1953 that kills his best friend's mother, an accident that Owen is sure is the result of divine intervention.

Joyce, James

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Follows Stephen Dedalus from his days as a student at the Clongowes Wood School, to the deep religious conflict he experiences at a day

school in Dublin, to his college years during which he challenges the conventions of his upbringing.

Just, Ward

An Unfinished Season

Class struggle and family tensions explode in this novel of life in a Chicago suburb in the 1950s as a teenager watches his father's psyche crumble in the wake of union problems and marital difficulties.

Kantner, Seth

Ordinary Wolves

A white boy transplanted from Chicago to the Arctic tundra of Alaska finds himself struggling to adapt to his new home, where he must learn to hunt, fish, and live off the land, separated from the constant call of consumer culture.

Martin, Clancy

How to Sell

A philosophical metaphor of the American soul at work finds sixteen-year-old Bobby dropping out of school to follow his idolized older brother into the jewelry business in Canada, a venture during which he becomes enthralled with his brother's successful saleswoman girlfriend.

Palahniuk, Chuck

Fight Club

In a confusing world poised on the brink of mayhem, Tyler Durden, a projectionist, waiter, and anarchic genius, comes up with an idea to create clubs in which young men can escape their humdrum existence and prove themselves in barehanded fights

Potok, Chaim

My Name is Asher Lev

Records the anguish and triumphs of a young painter as he emerges into the great world of art and rejects all else.

Richter, Conrad

The Light in the Forest

True Son had been born into a frontier family, but all he could remember, all that he loved, was Native American. Now, at fifteen, he was ordered to go back to the white man, whom he had learned to hate. Where did he belong--and where could he go?

Roth, Philip

Portnoy's Complaint

A New York lawyer, dominated by a demanding Jewish mother, plays out a sexual revenge in fact and fantasy.

Salinger, J.D.

Catcher in the Rye

Since his debut in 1951 as The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield has been synonymous with "cynical adolescent." Holden narrates the story of a couple of days in his sixteen-year-old life, just after he's been expelled from prep school, in a slang that sounds edgy even today and keeps this novel on banned book lists.

Shteyngart, Gary

The Russian Debutante's Handbook

In a novel about being an outsider in America and what it means to be an American, Vladimir, a young Russian-American immigrant, pursues his dreams of success, wealth, and a girlfriend, as his quest takes him deep into uncharted territory.

Stemple, Adam

Singer of Souls

Leaving behind a life of drug abuse, Douglas Stewart finds himself in Edinburgh under the watchful eye of his stern Scottish grandmother, but when he is tempted to return to his past behaviors, he discovers he can see the fey folk.

Toole, John

A Confederacy of Dunces

A fat New Orleans misanthrope who constantly rebukes society, Ignatius Reilly, gets a job at his mother's urging but ends up leading a worker's revolt

Tropper, Jonathan

Everything Changes

As his wedding day approaches, Zachary King begins to wonder if his entire life might be a big mistake, doubts that are only enhanced by the arrival of Norm, Zack's freewheeling, overbearing father, after a twenty-year absence.

Winton, Tim

Breath

Falling under the spell of an enigmatic extreme-sport surfer, a thrill-seeking pair of western Australian adolescents is initiated into a world of high-stakes adventures and dangerous boundary testing.

Yunque, Edgardo

The Lamentable Journey of Omaha

Bigelow into the Impenetrable Loisaída Jungle

Laid off from his job at Kinko's and confronting a life of personal, romantic, professional, and even physical failure, Omaha Bigelow finds salvation in the arms of Maruquita Salsipuedes, a Nuyorican homegirl who uses her magical powers to cure his problems, but now Omaha discovers that success has its own problems.



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